consideration to encourage sericulture development in the areas mentioned above?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A World Bank/Swiss-assisted National Sericulture Project with an outlay of Rs. 555.30 crore has been launched in the current financial year for development of sericulture in the country. The project envisages development of sericulture in various states of the country *including Himachal Pradesh, Uttar* Pradesh, Kashmir, Bihar and Assam.

Transfer of Staff by the Regional Office of State Bank of Indore

256. DR. BAPU KALDATE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1062 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 4th May, 1989 and state :

(a) whether any Clerk/Head Clerks/Special Assistants/ Head Cashiers have been transferred by the Regional Offices of the State Bank of Indore during June, 1985 to 30th June, 1988 to other States ; and

(b) if so, what is the number thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI) : (a) and (b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Production of Fuel-Wood

257. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) what is the present ratio of fuel-wood production and consumption in the country ;

(b) whether Government propose to give any incentives for encouraging new plantation ; and

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS *(SHRIMATI SUMATI ORAON)* : (a) According to a report of the Forest Survey of India, the ratio of production of fuel-wood from the forest areas to demand in the country in the year 1987 was 1:6.4.

(b) and (c) Schemes being implemented under the programmes of National Westelands Development Board are aimed at encouraging raising of fuel-wood and fodder plantations. These includes schemes like Decentralised People's Nurseries, Rural Fuelwood Plantations, Grants-in-aid to voluntary agencies, Margin Money Scheme, Externally-Aided Social Forestry Projects, etc.

Grant of Pension to Freedom Fighters of Punjab

258. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) what is the number of applications of freedom fighters from Punjab still awaiting decision for grant of Freedom Fighters' Pension ;

(b) whether for expeditious disposal thereof , Government have considered the desirability of personal hearing being granted to the claimants ; and